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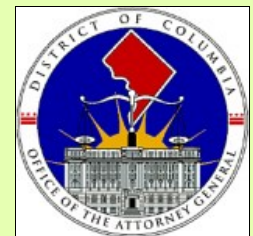


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# The Dangers of Synthetic Drugs



**Office of the Attorney General**  
**for the District of Columbia**



# Synthetic Drugs

## "Synthetic Cannabinoids"

### What Are Synthetic Drugs?

Synthetic drugs, specifically synthetic cannabinoids, are a mixture of herbs, incense, and/or spices that are sprayed with mind-altering chemicals. These drugs can produce hallucinogenic effects. Even though some people call synthetic cannabinoids "fake weed," **these drugs are not a form of marijuana at all.**



The active ingredients in these drugs are synthetic chemicals that are very dangerous to the brain and other parts of the body. Because synthetic drugs are not regulated, they are not tested for safety, and users don't know what they are putting into their bodies.

### Dangers

Although synthetic drugs often are marketed as potpourri or incense and are packaged to look harmless, they can cause:

Overdose	Loss of Consciousness
Brain Damage	High Anxiety/Panic Attacks
Severe Paranoia	Psychosis
Hallucination	Nausea and Vomiting
Acute Kidney Injury	High Blood Pressure
Convulsions	Seizures
Heart Attack	Stroke

### Some Street Names Include:

**Scooby Snax**  
Spice  
BIZARRO  
VA Pack  
**K2**  
WTF



# The Law

Some synthetic cannabinoids are Schedule I controlled substances, which means they are illegal.

**You can be arrested and prosecuted for manufacturing, distributing, or possessing synthetic cannabinoids.**

Pretrial Services, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, and other community supervision agencies in the District of Columbia now test for synthetic cannabinoids! Positive testing may impact your job, parole, probation, or government benefits.

## If You Need Help

If you or someone you know ingests synthetic cannabinoids and stops breathing, collapses, or has a seizure, **dial 9-1-1 immediately.**

In non-emergency situations, you can get free, confidential medical advice 24 hours a day by calling the **National Capital Poison Center** at 800-222-1222

For addiction resources, contact the **Department of Behavioral Health 24/7 Help Line** at 888-793-4376

If you believe a business is selling synthetic drugs, contact the **Metropolitan Police Department Anonymous Tip Line** at 202-727-9099 | 202-299-5555 or text 50411

For more info visit:  
[www.drugfreeyouth.com](http://www.drugfreeyouth.com)  
[www.k2zombiedc.com](http://www.k2zombiedc.com)

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